

STUDIES IN THE EUPATORIEAE (ASTERACEAE). CLXXV.

A NEW GENUS FROM BAHIA, LITOTHAMNUS.

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The Eupatorieae of Bahia, Brazil, includes numerous genera of the Gyptoid complex having distinctive vegetative form such as Agrianthus. The area is one in which the Gyptoid complex has proliferated greatly, and undescribed forms are to be expected. Recent collections from the coastal region of southern Bahia include a specimen of a slightly fleshy to coriaceous simple-leaved shrub that is Gyptoid in character, but unlike any known genus or species of the group.

The new genus, Litothamnus, has the general papillosity of style branches and corolla lobes, the glabrous style base, strongly annulated anther collars, and subequal involucre bracts that are characteristic of most members of the Gyptoid Complex. Both habit and geography suggest closest relationship within the Complex to the other genera with indurated leaves, Agrianthus and Bahianthus. But both of the latter genera are initially distinguishable by their characteristically alternate or spiralled leaf-insertion. Opposite leaves of Litothamnus are reflected even in the branching of the inflorescence which contrasts with both the densely clustered heads of Agrianthus and the alternating subfasciate branching of the inflorescence of Bahianthus. The broad glabrous leaves of Litothamnus with the smooth hardened upper surface are individually distinctive, and their crowded insertion further contributes to the characteristic habit of the plant. The veins of the leaves are only slightly raised and third-order veins seem sparse and crudely organized. The stems appear to have been rather fleshy in life, and the short internodes are marked by distinct lines at the nodes giving an articulated appearance. The heads of Litothamnus have broad involucre bracts, in contrast to those of Agrianthus and Bahianthus, and the pappus setae are scabrous on both the lateral and outer surfaces while those of the latter two genera are flattened and smooth externally.

The habit of Litothamnus is unlike that of any other member of the Eupatorieae, and furnishes an immediate distinction from all other members of the Gyptoid Complex. A few other genera of the tribe such as Coreanthemum and Imeria of the Critonioid Complex

do approach Litothamnus in the texture and shape of their leaves.

It is possible that Litothamnus might be determined as Eupatorium carnosifolium B.L.Robinson, a species with a listed type from near Ilhéos, Bahia, and with a name very appropriate for the present plant. However, the description by Robinson (1928) indicates a larger plant having longer internodes, crenate leaves, heads with 50-60 flowers, and pubescent outer surfaces of the involucral bracts. A previous study (King & Robinson, 1972) has shown that the B.L.Robinson species is a mixed concept and the name is properly a synonym of Diacranthera crenata (Schlect. in Mart.) K. & R.

Litothamnus ellipticus R.M.King and H.Robinson, gen. & sp. nov. Asteracearum (Eupatorieae).

Plantae fruticulosae ca. 2 m altae plerumque glabrae; caules et folia subcarnosa, internodiis brevibus plerumque 5-10 mm longis. Folia congesta opposita, petiolis ca. 5 mm longis; laminae ellipticae vel leniter obovatae 4-8 cm longae et 2.5-4.0 cm latae in sicco coriaceae lucidae base obtusae vel breviter acutae margine integrae apice breviter obtusae fere ad basem trinervatae, nervis et nervulis supra et subtus subprominentibus, nervulis paucis irregularibus. Inflorescentiae corymbosae, ramis oppositis, bracteis anguste vel late ellipticis, ramis ultimis 2-4 mm longis. Capitula late campanulata 7-8 mm alta et 5-6 mm lata; squamae involucri 12-15 subaequilongae persistentes late oblongae vel ellipticae 5-6 mm longae plerumque 2-3 mm latae apice abrupte breviter acuminatae margine minute puberulae extus glabrae obscure 5-6 nervatae, squamae interiores lineares paucae; paleae raro vel nullae. Flores ca. 15 in capitulo; corollae disciformes albae anguste infundibulares ca. 5 mm longae extus parce glandulopuberulae, lobis ovatis ca. 0.7 mm longis et 0.5 mm latis intus mamillosis extus superne indurate papillosis; filamenta in parte superiore incrassata ca. 0.25 mm longa, cellulis valde annulate ornatis; thecae antherarum ca. 1.7 mm longae rufescentes; appendices antherarum oblongae ca. 0.35 mm longae et 0.25 mm latae; basi stylorum glabrae non noduliferi; appendices stylorum lineares dense patentiter papillosae. Achaenia prismatica 5-costata submatura usque ad 2.5 mm longa plerumque glabra superne paucе glandulo-puberula; carpodia annuliformia, cellulis 4-5-seriatis quadratis ca. 25  $\mu$ m in diametro; setae pappi ca. 30 plerumque 4.5-5.5 mm longae valde congestae subbiseriatae dense scabridulae superne angustiores apice leniter vel non

latiores, cellulis apicalibus argute acutis. Grana pollinis 20-22  $\mu$ m in diametro.

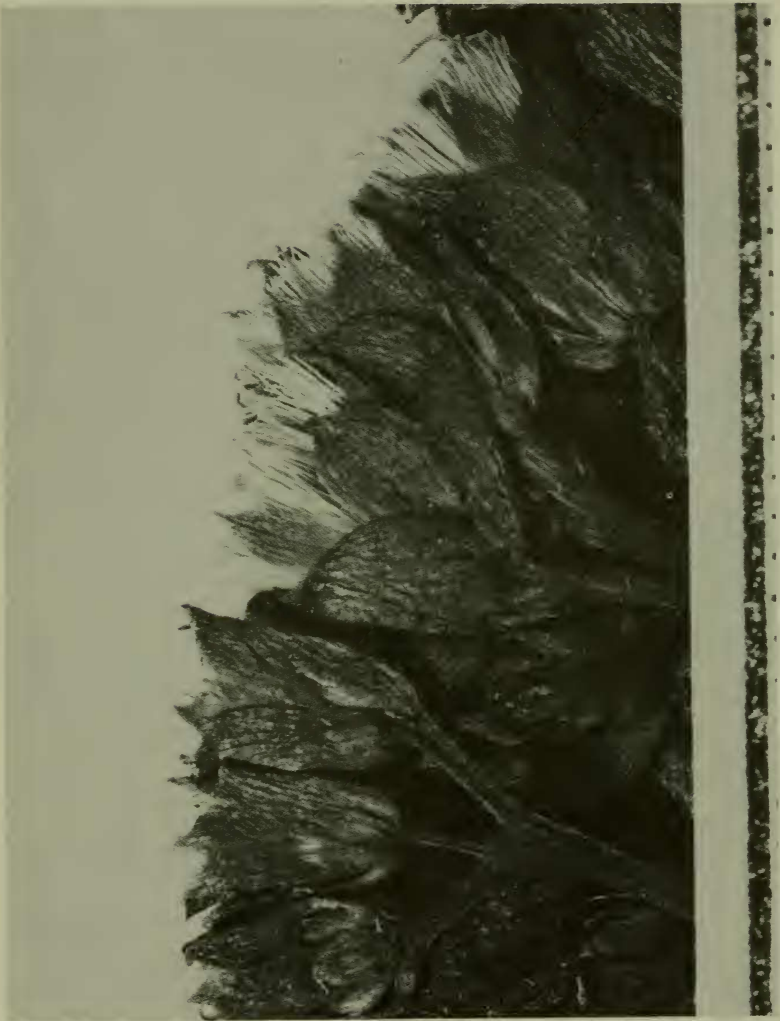
TYPE: BRASIL: Bahia: Municípios de Sta. Cruz de Cabrália e Porto Seguro. Rod. BR 367, a 18.7 km ao N de Porto Seguro. Prox. ao nível do mar. Folha SE-24 (16-39c). Arbusto, 2 m de altura. Flores brancas. S.A.Mari, L.A.Mattos Silva, J.A.Kallunki, T.S. dos Santos & A.V.Pereira dos Santos 9751, 20 Mar. 1978 (Holotype US).

The genus contains the single species.

#### Literature Cited

- King, R. M. & H. Robinson 1972. Studies in the Eupatorieae (Asteraceae) XCVII. A new genus, Diacranthera. Phytologia 24 (3): 192-194.
- Robinson, B. L. 1928. Records preliminary to a general treatment of the Eupatorieae.-VII. Contr. Gray Herb. n.s. 80: 1-42.





Litothamnus ellipticus R.M.King and H.Robinson,  
enlargement of heads.